

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Inventor: Verdonschot et al.

Page 3

49. (Once Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising pressurizing the cement with the component in its intended final position.

*A4*  
50. (Once Amended) The method of claim 46, further comprising inserting and locating the component through an incision distal from the intended position of the component.

REMARKS

The above-identified changes to the claims are merely presented to remove multiple dependencies, to correct minor idiomatic English errors, and/or to address potential lack of antecedent basis problems. No new matter has been added by any of these changes. Following entry of these changes, examination of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Everett G. Diederiks, Jr.  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 33,323

Date: February 11, 2002  
DIEDERIKS & WHITELAW, PLC  
12471 Dillingham Square, #301  
Woodbridge, VA 22192  
Tel: (703) 583-8300  
Fax: (703) 583-8301

Examiner Reference  
Inventor: Verdonschot et al.

7. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 4 to 6] claim 5, wherein the tool includes an elongate, tubular housing, and the means for releasably mounting the component is provided at the distal end of the housing.
8. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 5, further comprising an endoscope for providing [the] a surgeon with an image of the site of the component to assist guidance and location.
9. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 5, further comprising a temperature and/or pressure transducer to either aid automation or to assist a surgeon in noting pressure being applied or the temperature of the cement as it sets.
10. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 1 to 4 or 6 to 9] claim 6, further comprising means for forcing cement under pressure, through a tube, and into the space defined by the cavity and the component and confined by the seal.
11. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 5, wherein the cement is supplied via one or more apertures in the component itself.
13. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 1 to 11] claim 5, further comprising a mating part engageable with the component and locking means for releasably locking the component thereto.
19. (Once Amended) [A] An apparatus for positioning a component in a human or animal body, the apparatus comprising an elongate body having a head with a surface arranged to cooperate with a surface of the component; a seal for sealing a perimeter of the cooperating surfaces; and a passage for withdrawing air from the space defined by the sealed surfaces so as to releasably hold the component on the head [of the tool].

Examiner Reference  
Inventor: Verdonschot et al.

20. (Once Amended) The apparatus of [any one of claims 1 to 11 or 13 to] claim 19, including one or more cement delivery orifices which communicate with aperture(s) in the component, so that, in use, cement can be supplied, via the aperture(s) to the space beneath and/or surrounding the component whilst the component is locked to, and thereby correctly positioned by, the [tool] apparatus.

48. (Once Amended) The method of claim 46 [or claim 47], further comprising removing the seal when the cement has set.

49. (Once Amended) The method of [any of claims 46 to 48] claim 46, further comprising [pressurising] pressurizing the cement with the component in its intended final position.

50. (Once Amended) The method of [any one of claims 46 to 49] claim 46, further comprising inserting and locating the component through an incision distal from the intended position of the component.